



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

### Pool 24 Island Restoration - Denmark & Drift Islands Complex

Upper Mississippi River, Lower Impounded, Pool 24, River Miles 295-289

Pike County, Illinois

Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program, St. Louis District

**Location.** The study area includes Denmark and Drift Islands and surrounding aquatic habitats in Pool 24 between river miles 295-289 (see project vicinity map).



**Land Ownership.** Denmark and Drift islands are USACE-owned and managed for natural resources.

**Resource Problem.** The Denmark Island and Drift Island complex in Pool 24 of the Mississippi River is approximately 3,320 acres of island and aquatic habitats including a network of ridges and swales, backwater lakes, and small braided side channels. This area has seen an increase in sedimentation in recent years and recent large scale flooding has exacerbated the problem. Water is currently unable to drain off these sites effectively following a flood, resulting in the degradation of floodplain forests and wetlands, as well as quality aquatic habitat.

**NESP Project Types.** The project could consist of the following NESP project types: island and shoreline protection, side channel restoration, topographic diversity, backwater restoration, and floodplain restoration.

**Project Objectives.** The project would restore aquatic and forested island habitat along a 6-mile reach within Pool 24. The preliminary project objectives include:

- Restore forested island habitats;
- Improve side channel habitat to benefit native fish and freshwater mussels; and
- Improve aquatic connectivity and flow within the backwaters and side channel habitats.

**Potential Measures.** The following are potential measures that could be combined into an implementable alternative that may be in the federal interest, address the identified problems, and achieve project objectives:

- Backwater excavation;
- Side channel excavation;
- Side channel substrate enhancement;
- Ridge and swale restoration;
- Timber stand improvement;
- Tree plantings;
- Island protection;
- River training structures; and
- Dike alteration.

**Implementation Considerations.** The project was endorsed by the River Resources Action Team Exec on July 30, 2021. The following data needs have been identified: freshwater mussel (including substrate) survey, hydraulic modeling, and bathymetric survey.

**Financial Information (Estimate).** The estimated Total Project Cost is approximately \$20-25M, including an estimated \$250,000 for monitoring and \$500,000 for adaptive management. Project measures would require minimal operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. The project is located on USACE fee title Federal lands (out-granted or not); therefore, the construction of this project would be 100% Federal and does not require a cost-share sponsor.